



The Horizon

A Publication of the City of Menasha, Wisconsin

Fall 2005

The Mayor's Corner

By Joseph Laux, Mayor

I have been a Menasha property owner and property taxpayer for over 19 years. In all these years, I have received the most compliments for the Trestle Trail and Miron Bridge. Please enjoy this new addition to our community – it is great family fun and you can bring your favorite pet for a little exercise as well.

As an extension of this project, the City of Menasha and the Town of Harrison received a \$350,000 federal grant to extend bike trails from Oneida to High Cliff State Park. The State of Wisconsin is going to assemble property for a bike route and we will be designing the trail in 2006 with construction to follow.

For the past two years, Menasha has been reducing the amount of storm water flowing into the sanitary sewer from our homes. During 2006 we will begin phase III of this project to reduce the storm water inflow even more. The next area starts at the Fox River going north to Airport Road and approximately going West from Appleton Road to Little Lake Butte des Morts. Property owners will be contacted in this area by the City of Menasha to inspect your home to determine if you need a sump pump. If you do need a sump pump, Menasha has a grant program that pays the first \$500 and 50% of the cost from \$500 to \$850 with a maximum grant of \$675. We need to divert the storm water from the sanitary sewer to save us money and avoid running the storm water through the sewage treatment plant.

Each and every year we invest in new developments and businesses in our community. We are on the right track and are improving with each new investment opportunity. Below is a listing of some new businesses opening in our downtown and throughout Menasha. Please stop in and support Menasha businesses – we need them and they need us –together we're building a great community!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new City of Menasha businesses:

Accent Floral and Gifts
180 Main Street

K's Play Days
1300 Midway Road

Trelliage-Flowers, Gifts, Home
68 Racine Street

Tail Waggers Doggy Daycare
8870 Oneida Street

Stone Toad Restaurant & Grill
1109 Oneida Street

Tiny Tink'r Handyman Services
tinytinkr@sbcglobal.net

We would also like to welcome the following new businesses who will be opening soon:

Jack's or Better Restaurant
175 Main Street

Sabani's Restaurant
890 Lake Park Road

Aspen Coffee and Tea
1110 Midway Road

Visit the City of Menasha web site at www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov

Risk from Indoor Radon is Preventable

By Todd Drew, R.S. –Environmental Health Sanitarian, Health Department

The City of Menasha Health Department is encouraging everyone to learn about radon and how to protect against it.

Radon is a radioactive and odorless gas that comes from trace amounts of natural uranium found in the ground. Radon is harmlessly dispersed in outdoor air, but when trapped in buildings can build to elevated levels. Breathing indoor air with high levels of radon can lead to lung cancer. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon causes several thousand preventable lung cancer deaths each year.

This winter, people should consider testing their indoor air for radon, to see if this potentially harmful gas is seeping in through the foundation of their home. Small regions of soils with elevated radon gas occur almost randomly in the ground. Radon can have elevated levels in all types of homes, and one house may have elevated levels of radon while the houses on either side do not. Cold air in the soil presses up on the warm air inside houses as if they were hot-air balloons, and carries radon through cracks and openings in basements.

Testing indoor air for elevated levels of radon is easy, and if high levels are found, the remedy is generally not very complicated. New homes can be built with features minimizing radon entry. Radon test kits are available at some local public health agencies, local hardware stores, and from your Wisconsin Radon Information Center by calling 888 LOW RADON (888-569-7236) toll free in Wisconsin. Beginning in November, City of Menasha residents may stop in for a free radon test kit at the Menasha Health Department, 226 Main Street, Menasha or call 967-5119 for information.

Generally, 90 to 95 percent of Wisconsin houses will have radon levels within guidelines and require no corrective action. However, locally certain areas can have a much higher percentage of elevated levels. If tests indicate that radon levels are elevated, homeowners should contact a radon contractor to correct the problem. Because this is highly specialized work, residents should only hire nationally certified radon contractors.

Radon detection and control is an important part of keeping your home safe and your family healthy. For more information about testing and fixing radon, call the City of Menasha Health Department at 967-5119 or see the comprehensive website of Radon Information for Wisconsin, at www.lowradon.org.

You Can Now Recycle Discarded Electronics Locally!

- Reduce the amount of televisions, cell phones, computers and printers that end up in landfills
- Safely manage some of the potential hazardous materials that make up these components
- Have your unused computer components, cameras, TV's, stereo equipment and more recycled

We encourage our residents to use the Paper Valley Recycling Center at 1420 Earl Street, Menasha when disposing of many components. A small processing fee of .35 cents per pound is charged to recycle the material. By recycling the *e-waste* you can help plan for a greener future! For more information contact Paper Valley Recycling Center at 729-5005.

When is a Building Permit Needed?

By Building Inspection Department

With fall upon us, you may be thinking of starting some last minute projects before the cold weather sets in. Many projects can be accomplished without obtaining a building permit, but there are a few that require one.

Building Permits Required

A partial list includes, but is not limited, to: **decks and porches, ramps, additions, hot tubs, garages** (attached, detached, carports) and **sheds** (including pre-built example: Rubbermaid).

Swimming pools – any swimming pool that is capable of having a depth of two (2) feet or more of water at any point must have a building permit, zoning approval, and may require a fence. This applies to all swimming pools regardless if the pool is permanent or one that can be taken down. This includes the blue collapsible swimming pools that are sold at most stores. An unprotected pool constitutes a public nuisance and potential safety hazard, not only to your children, but neighboring children as well.

Remodeling – certain remodel projects will require a building permit. To find out if your project will require a permit, please call or stop into our office and talk with us.

Any project done by a contractor – the State of Wisconsin requires contractors to have a current valid dwelling contractor responsibility card. This card is issued to the contractor by the state of Wisconsin. This card shows the state that the contractor has liability insurance or that they are bonded. If you are not sure if your contractor has taken out a building permit, please feel free to call the building inspection department and we can let you know.

Work that a Homeowner Can Not Do: electrical, plumbing, HVAC (heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning)

If you are unsure of a project, or have any questions, please contact our office during our daily hours of Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. at 967-5123 or stop in our office. We are happy to help you. For inspections, please call our toll free number at 1-800-422-5220.

Soda or Water

By: Lorita Kjemhus, RDH

Drinking water is one of the easiest and healthiest habits a person can do. Consuming soda pop dehydrates the body. No wonder 75% of Americans are dehydrated. These are other factors to consider:

1. A lack of water can cause daytime fatigue and headaches. Drinking water throughout the day can help to alleviate this problem.
2. 8-10 glasses of water can help reduce back and joint pain by 80%.
3. A mere 2% drop in body water can cause groggy, foggy thinking, short term memory loss and concentration problems.
4. Adequate water intake can reduce the risk of colon cancer, reduce breast cancer by 79% and reduce bladder cancer by 50%.

Now let's consider the properties of drinking Coke:

1. In some states, the U.S. highway patrol uses Coke to remove the blood from highways after car accidents.
2. If you place a steak in a bowl of Coke, the steak will be dissolved in two days.
3. Pour a can of Coke into the toilet bowl, allow to sit for one hour, and flush for a sparkling clean toilet bowl. I wonder what this stuff does to the stomach?
4. A can of Coke will loosen grease stains from clothes if added to your washing machine regular cycle.
5. The phosphoric acid in Coke will dissolve a nail in approximately 4 days.
6. Phosphoric acid will also leech calcium from your bones.
7. Coca-Cola syrup (concentrate) is considered a hazardous material and must be marked as "highly corrosive material."

By the way, **all soda pop (whether it is diet or not)** contains 5 different types of acids that are corrosive to the teeth and body. So what will you choose to drink, soda pop or water?

Primary Source: <http://health21.homestead.com>



Menasha Utilities Celebrates 100 Years

Since its inception in 1905, Menasha Utilities has had a vision for the future – to provide efficient, reliable, and affordable electric and water services to the community it serves. Menasha Utilities is proud of its past, and is proud of the steps it is taking today to ensure a bright tomorrow.

Teamwork and cooperation have built the organization into a tremendous asset for the community, and justified the faith and determination of those city residents who fought for its creation 100 years ago.

In recognition of these 100 years a Centennial Plaza has been constructed south of the Operations Complex on Milwaukee Street. Memorial bricks have been utilized in this project and the sale of bricks will continue as space allows. The Plaza was designed to distinguish several eras of Utility history and to recognize many of the individuals and groups associated with Menasha Utilities.

Save Money by Reducing Energy Use



Menasha Utilities has more ways than ever to help lower energy costs and preserve the environment. Utilizing Public Benefits funding, there are a number of programs that make energy efficiency and conservation more convenient and more rewarding. When you save energy, you not only save money, you also help preserve our energy resources for tomorrow. Every dollar dedicated to Public Benefits stays right in our community, and these programs are open to all our customers.

To learn more about how you can save energy and money, contact Chris Voigtlander, Energy Services Representative, at 967-5263. Some program information can also be found on our web site at www.menashautilities.com.

Trick or Treat Hours Set

For those who wish to participate in trick-or-treat activities,
hours for the City of Menasha will be held on
Monday, October 31 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Help Keep Menasha's Drinking Water Clean

By Jessica Beckendorf, Associate Planner

Proper Lawn and Garden Fertilization and Pesticide Application

Many people feel a sense of pride when looking at their freshly mowed lawns and trimmed landscaping. Most even go a step further by applying pesticides and fertilizers to ensure that their landscaping remains healthy. However, before you begin your fall landscape care activities, read on to find out how the practices you currently use may be harming our rivers, lakes, and even our drinking water!

If lawns were considered a crop, they would be the fifth largest in the United States in area, behind corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay (USEPA). The challenge with this fact is that recent research has shown that lawns produce more surface runoff than was previously believed. This means that greater potential exists for surface runoff from our lawns to pollute the waters of our community. Below you will find specific information on pesticides and fertilizers and some tips for their application.

Fertilizers

It all starts with you: “Fertilizer carelessly applied on one lawn can be a waste of the homeowner’s money but may otherwise seem insignificant. On hundreds or thousands of lawns, however, careless applications can add up to a major problem for local streams or lakes” (UW-Ext. GWQ002).

Proper fertilization will keep your lawn and landscaping healthy and more resistant to drought, insects and diseases. To help keep that sense of pride while protecting our water resources keep the following in mind:

- Get a soil test. This will help you determine exactly which type of fertilizer your yard requires.
- Fertilize in the fall. This will promote deep roots.
- Do not fertilize healthy trees and shrubs on an annual basis. It is not needed and may require you to do additional pruning.
- Keep all fertilizers, soil, and vegetation swept off paved surfaces. They can cause weed and algae growth in nearby waterways. Weeds and grass clippings, if washed into the storm sewer, can also deplete the water’s oxygen supply.
- Contact the Winnebago or Calumet County UW-Extension office for soil testing information, fertilizer recommendations, and suggestions for plant selection.

Pesticides

Everything is linked to everything else. In almost every case, the use of chemical pesticides (which include herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides) should be the last resort. Not only are pesticides potentially harmful to animals, plants, and beneficial insects, they are also harmful to our waterways and the fish that live in them.

The safest method of pest control involves getting to know your plants and the pests that plague them, choosing the right plants for the location, frequent inspections, trying non-chemical methods, and keeping records about what works. If treatment with a chemical pesticide becomes absolutely necessary, keep the following in mind:

- Read the label, taking care to notice how, when, and where to use the pesticide.
- Do not over-apply! Check the label and only apply the amount specified.
- Wear the label-suggested protective clothing and do not wash the clothing you wear with other clothing.
- Do not mix pesticides unless the label instructs you to do so. Check to make sure the pesticide you are using is the proper one for the pests you are trying to control.
- Always keep pesticides in their original containers. Not only does this promote proper use, it is the law!
- Do not use pesticides if there is rain in the forecast. It decreases the effectiveness and may wash into nearby waterways, causing contamination. Also, never apply pesticides on breezy days – it may be a danger to plants and animals you did not intend to use it on – including those in neighboring yards.
- Never apply pesticides to bare ground, eroded areas, or near wells, streams, ponds or marshes.

Further information regarding fertilizers and pesticides can be found at the Winnebago (232-1970) and Calumet County (849-1450) UW-Extension offices or at the City of Menasha Community Development Department at 967-5103. Following proper techniques in our lawn and landscape care really can – and will – make a difference in the quality of our lakes, rivers, and streams – and our drinking water.

Information for this article was obtained from University of Wisconsin-Extension publications: "Lawn and Garden Fertilizers", "Lawn and Garden Pesticides", and US Environmental Protection Agency NPDES publication "Landscaping and Lawn Care". For further information, contact the above offices or go to <http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/showcat.asp?id=109>

Kids' Favorite Book Characters

The Children's Department will hold a gala reception on Monday, November 14 from 6:30p.m.-7:30 p.m. with special guests Cat in the Hat, Amelia Bedelia, Madeline and Clifford the Big Red Dog.

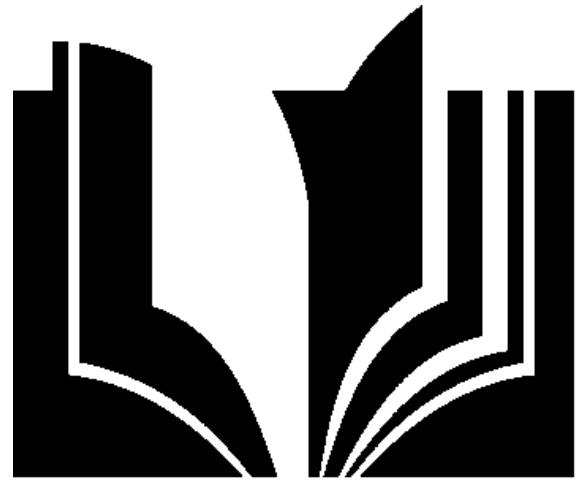
Reader-to-Reader Relief

Katrina and Rita caused BILLIONS of dollars in damages and losses. Libraries, too, were lost and damaged. Our library is joining with the libraries of the Winnefox Library System, working through the American Library Association to restore libraries to devastated communities. Winnefox is joining with libraries and library systems around the country to help rebuild the libraries of Harrison County, Mississippi. The Biloxi Public Library is a total loss. Gulfport's building will be razed and much of their book collection was destroyed. The small community library in Pass Christian is destroyed. The Biloxi Division Street Study Center hasn't been accessible for damage assessment. The West Biloxi Library sustained lesser damage. Please join us by making a contribution at our checkout desk. Any amount will help. The Library's Board of Trustees will match the first \$500 donated with non-tax funds from the library's endowment. We will pass on more information from Harrison County as it becomes available. Please help another reader. (Checks may be made out to the Winnefox Library System.)

Artist in Residence

We are pleased to announce an Artist in Residence program from Oct. 20 – Nov. 24 with local artists Tom Grade and Lynn Ann Sauby. M. H.S. students will work with the artists to create a molded paper sculpture for permanent display in the library's Miron Fireplace Room. The studio will be open weekdays so you can watch the sculpture being made. The artists will give papermaking demonstrations 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday plus Thursday 6:00-8:00 p.m. Visitors can try their hand at papermaking. To arrange a group demonstration, call De Dalum at 967-5166 ext. 2 Wednesdays or Fridays.

Hot Spot. Did you know the library is an Internet "hot spot"? Bring your wireless-ready laptop, find a comfortable chair and **SURF!**



MENASHA

P U B L I C

L I B R A R Y

B o o k s & B e y o n d

Good News! We've added "Newspaper Archive Elite" to our magazine and research databases – always available at the library or from the comfort of your home. "Newspaper Archive Elite" has over 30 million digital pages of newsprint from hundreds of newspapers. Examples include: the NY Times, Washington Post, Post Crescent, and Oshkosh Northwestern. You can find articles dating from 1753.

Blood Partners

The Library partners with the Community Blood Service to ask you to give blood so that others may live. The BLOODMOBILE visits the library next on December 8. Stop in or call the Reference Desk at 967-5166, ext.2 for more information.

www.menashalibrary.org

Ways to Prevent Backups in Your Lateral and the City Main

By Tim Jacobson, Street Superintendent

The property owner can do many things to prevent their lateral from backing up. Remember too, that the very same things can help to prevent backups in the City main as well. If everyone would be careful about how they dispose of certain products, our system would be a great deal more efficient, cause fewer backups, cost us all less money, and prevent a lot of misery.

- **Grease:** Cooking oil should be poured into a heat-resistant container and disposed of, after it cools off, in the garbage, not the drain. Some people assume that washing grease down the drain with hot water is satisfactory. This grease goes down the drain, cools off and solidifies either in the drain, the property owner's line, or in the main sewer. When this happens, the line constricts, and eventually clogs.
- **Paper Products:** Paper towels, Kleenex, disposal (and cloth) diapers, feminine products, etc. cause a great deal of problems in the property owner's lateral as well as in the city main. These products do not deteriorate quickly. They become lodged in portions of the lateral/main, causing a sewer backup. These products should also be disposed of in the garbage.
- **Roots:** Shrubs and trees, seeking moisture, will make their way into sewer line cracks. These roots can cause extensive damage. They may start out small, getting into a small crack in the pipe, but as the tree or shrub continues to grow, so does the root. After time, this causes your sewer line to break which in turn allows debris to hang up in the line, thus causing a back-up. One way to prevent roots from entering your line is to replace your line and tap with new plastic pipe. Another alternative is to be careful about planting greenery around your sewer line. If you have continuing problems with tree roots in your lateral, you may have to have them cut periodically.
- **Sewer Odor:** Another concern that property owner's have is that they can smell sewer odors inside their house or building. There are many ways to prevent this from occurring. Under each drain in your plumbing system, there is a "P-Trap". If there is water in this fitting, odors or gasses from the sewer cannot enter through the drain from either the property owner's lateral or the City main. Periodically check to make sure that unused floor drains, sinks, etc. have water in the "P-Trap". Another way to prevent sewer odor is to ensure that the vents, which are located on your roof, are free from bird nests, leaves, etc. When these vents are clear, the sewer odors will escape through the vent.

Fall and Winter Parks and Recreation Family Events

By Brian Tungate, Director of Parks and Recreation

Attention Parents! You and your family are encouraged to attend the following fall/winter special events. For more information visit our website (www.cityof-menasha-wi.gov) or call the Park and Recreation office at 967-5106.

Great Pumpkin Hunt

Thursday, October 27, Clovis Grove Park Shelter

Kids Ages 4 and under: 6:00 p.m.

Ages 5-7: 6:15 p.m.

Ages 8 and Up: 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Hayride

Friday, December 9, Memorial Building

Tickets go on sale beginning November 9

20 minute rides around Menasha on Doty Island

Frozen Flamingo Open

Saturday, February 4, Smith Park

A 3-hole golf tournament for ages 6 and up! Call for tee-times beginning January 9th.

Hart Park Ice Skating Rink

Rink attendants needed. Applications available on-line or stop by the Parks and Recreation office at 140 Main Street. Applications due by November 4.

Walk to Win—Step Up to the Challenge

Develop a lifelong healthy habit for you and your children. Join Walk to Win, a free community walking program. Now through November 30, adults walk 100 miles, students can set their own goal of walking 25, 50 or 75 miles. Log the miles that you walk at school or home and receive a T-shirt for reaching your goal.

Register everyone in your family today! Visit www.walktowin.org or pick up a registration form at any of the YMCA of the Fox Cities locations or area health departments.

Sponsored By

ThedaCare • United Way Fox Cities • YMCA of Fox Cities • Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Fox Valley • UW Health-University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital

Partners:

ThedaCare • YMCA of the Fox Cities • Neenah Joint School District • Affinity Health System • City of Appleton Public Health • City of Menasha Health Department • City of Neenah Public Health Department • City of Oshkosh Public Health Department • Calumet County Public Health Department • Outagamie County Public Health Department • Winnebago County Health Department



City of Menasha

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Menasha, WI 54952

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Carrier Route Sort
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CAR-RT-SORT

Postal Customer
Menasha, WI 54952

Important RECYCLING INFORMATION ENCLOSED... save for future reference!!